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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2238

November 14, 1985

**WORLD WHEAT
PRODUCTION**

The world wheat production for 1985/86 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 506.3 million tons, up 1.4 million or less than 1 pct. from last month but down 1 pct. from last year's record harvest. Some important changes include: Argentina - production estimated at 12.3 million tons, up 1.3 million or 12 pct. from last month; Australia - 16.5 million tons, up $\frac{1}{2}$ million or 3 pct. from last month; European Community - 67 million tons, down 0.6 million or 1 pct. from last month.

**WORLD COARSE
GRAIN PROD.**

The world production for coarse grains for 1985/86 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 844.1 million tons, up 3.1 million, or less than 1 pct. from last month and up 4 pct. from last year. Significant developments include: United States production is estimated at a record 271.4 million tons, up 2.9 million or 1 pct. from last month and up 14 pct. from last year; E. Europe prod. is estimated at 66.4 million tons, up 0.6 million or 1 pct. from last month; European Community is estimated at 72 million tons, up $\frac{1}{2}$ million or less than 1 pct. from last month; USSR is estimated at 94 million tons, down 1 million or 1 pct. from last month.

**USSR GRAIN
PRODUCTION
UNCHANGED**

The estimate of the 1985 USSR grain crop is unchanged at 190 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Reports indicate the 1985 harvest is basically completed with the grain area likely the smallest since 1960. Yields per hectare are estimated to be the fourth highest ever. Wheat production remains unchanged at 83 million tons.

**USSR FALL
SEEDING**

The USSR winter grain planting is lagging behind last year's pace, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Soviets may not achieve the expected 34-35 million hectares (85-88 million acres) of winter grain area this season. October's dry weather limited moisture supplies for early winter grain establishment in areas that account for about 20 pct. of total winter wheat production. In addition, below normal temperatures during Oct. slowed plant growth and caused winter wheat to begin hardening earlier than normal. Usually, winter grains enter dormancy in the south during mid-Nov.

**U.S. CROP PROD.
HIGHLIGHTS**

The following are highlights of the Nov. 12 Crop Production Report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture: Corn for grain production is forecast at a record 8.72 billion bushels, up 14 pct. from last year and 6 pct. more than the previous record set in 1982. Sorghum for grain production is forecast at a record high 1.13 billion bushels, down slightly from Oct. 1 forecast but 30 pct. above last year's crop. Feed grain production - corn, sorghum, oats and barley - is expected to total 271 million metric tons, up 15 pct. from 1984 and nearly double the 1983 output. Soybean production is forecast at 2.13 billion bushels, 1 pct. more than the Oct. 1 forecast and 14 pct. above 1984. (For more statistical information, call 202-447-2127.)

**USSR GRAIN
IMPORT EST.**

The estimate of USSR grain imports at 35 million tons is unchanged from a month ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Wheat and coarse grain imports are each projected at 17 million tons with rice, miscellaneous grains and pulses expected to account for the balance. Soviet grain purchases from all origins for delivery in 1985/86 are now estimated at over 15 million tons. U.S. corn sales and European Community wheat and barley sales accounted for much of the activity this past month.

**USSR COARSE
GRAIN IMPORTS**

Soviet coarse grain imports are expected to drop sharply from the record 1984/85 level due to a significant increase in coarse grain production and a record large forage crop, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. U.S. corn sales to the Soviets are expected to fall well short of the record 1984/85 level. U.S. corn sales to the Soviets for July-June 1985/86 total over 3 million tons and account for about half of estimated total Soviet coarse grain purchases from all sources.

**WORLD OILSEEDS
PRODUCTION**

The world oilseeds production for 1985/86 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 196.5 million tons, up 0.3 million or less than 1 pct. from last month, and up 5 pct. from last year. U.S. production is estimated at 66.6 million tons, up 0.6 million or 1 pct. from last month and up 13 pct. from last year. Foreign production is estimated at a record 129.9 million tons, down 0.4 million or less than 1 pct. from last month, but up 1 pct. from last year.

**1985/86 SOVIET
WHEAT IMPORT**

The 1985/86 USSR wheat import estimate holds at 17 million tons, the smallest since 1980/81, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Reports of improved quality for the 1985 Soviet wheat harvest along with a larger outturn are expected to hold down USSR wheat imports this year. So far this marketing year, U.S. sales have totaled less than 200,000 tons.

**WORLD & U.S.
SOYBEAN
PRODUCTION**

The world production for soybeans for 1985/86 is estimated at a record 98.4 million tons, up 0.6 million or less than 1 pct. from last month. An important change from last month is the United States, where production is estimated at 57.9 million tons, up 0.6 million or 1 pct. from last month and up 14 pct. from last year. Record yields are being reported in the eastern Corn Belt.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

DAIRY PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM...The Dairy Price Support program was extended by Congress through November 14 when it enacted special legislation. William Bailey with USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, examines the extension program and options for the future. Vic Powell interviews. (511)

U.S./EGYPT TRADE RELATIONS - I...Recent figures indicate that Egypt imports about \$9.4 billion per year in commodities and equipment, and that its major trading partners are the U.S. and the European Community. USDA analyst Daniel Berman talks about the Egyptian import market. Vic Powell interviews. (512)

U.S./EGYPT TRADE RELATIONS - II...USDA analyst Daniel Berman continues his discussion on trade relations between the U.S. and Egypt, focusing on such programs as the Export Enhancement Initiative and how it's helping U.S. exports to do business with this important market. Vic Powell interviews. (513)

ORGANIC FARMING IN EUROPE...USDA economist Stephen Sposato talks about organic farming in Western Europe and the success this practice has achieved in this country. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (514)

IMPACT OF DOLLAR ON U.S. EXPORTS...U.S. dollar values have fluctuated in recent months, and this fluctuation has significant impact on U.S. exports. USDA economist Hal Goolsby takes a look at the value of the dollar and the role it plays with U.S. exports. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (515)

FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1485...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Ann Lastovica is an extension agent with Virginia State University. Her job is to help people like you and me get our household affairs in order. She helps couples to stop arguing over things like money and the lack of cooperation by other family members in keeping the place clean. On this edition of Agriculture USA, we'll share these views with you. George Holmes reports.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1474...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Breakthrough in genetic engineering; Farming the organic way; Soaring and Tennessee walking horse; Turkey research.

CONSUMER TIME #967...(Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) Buying the bird; Holiday turkey prices; Talking turkey, The superbowl of horse shows; Meat tested in Puerto Rico.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, Nov. 20, Oil crops, Catfish; Fri, Nov. 22, Cattle on feed, Livestock slaughter; Tues, Nov. 26, Weekly crop and weather; Fri, Nov. 29, Agricultural prices. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.

OFF MIKE

Don't be too shocked. This is a new look for the Farm Broadcasters Letter. We've changed to a self-mailer for a couple reasons--to save money and time. We're hoping this change will get the letter to you faster than it has in recent months, and if it saves money in the process, so much the better ... If you read this column last week, you found there wasn't much to read. I got stranded at home because of high water and decided to spend my time productively...goofing off. We've been flooded in before, but this time the water was considerably higher...at least 5 feet over the road and half way up our pasture toward the house. But we stayed high and dry ... This newsletter goes to the printer the same day as the opening session at the winter NAFB meeting in Kansas City, so we'll have to wait until next week to report awards presented, new officers installed, and other bits and pieces of news from the meeting. Of course if you attended, then you'll already know what we'll be talking about ... Note from Jack McConnell (who is now at KNOX, Grand Forks, ND) pointing out that he did not leave KOLT, Scottsbluff, NE, without picking up another award...this time the 1985 Alpha Epsilon Rho Community Service Award for the "Voices of the Valley" series he produced... Doug Cooper of KWMT, Fort Dodge, IA (and we've triple checked to be sure we got his name, station call letters, city and state correct), sent us a packet of stuff to bring us up-to-date on the continuing saga of his (and Craington Knau's, WMT, Shenandoah, IA) participation in the Iowa State Fair this year. The packet contained copies of a letter to CHATS editor Mark Vail (Kansas Ag Net, Topeka, KS) and front and rear photos of Doug's winning entry in the Fair's Celebrity Ewe Lead contest. Readers with good memories will appreciate the significance of the rear view when they recall that Doug won the affair with a ram. There was more: Letters from Craington to Doug and staff about baldness and weight control, but we'd best not go into that ... The Independent Florida Agrinet began broadcasting Sept. 3 via satellite, and according to a news release we received, it's the state's first independent farm radio network ... We received a copy of the TSN Agribusiness Newsletter, produced by Joe Ellis and Bob Crockrum (Texas State Agribusiness, Dallas, TX). It's a different approach, giving definitive information for eight different zones in the state. We appreciate being put on the mailing list.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
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